WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS SET FOR 25TH JULY, 2005*

Ban on smoking scenes in Films

*1. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Health Minister's directive to ban smoking scenes in movies and advertisements has been considered by his Minsitry;

(b) whether Government have issued any instructions to strictly follow the above directive in TV serials and films including foreign channels and films;

(c) if not, the reasons and justification therefor;

(d) whether the above directive to black-out tobacco scenes is unworkable and it has also been opposed by the Film Industry; and

(e) if so, the alternative measures being considered by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has not issued any instructions on the subject so far.

(c) The matter is under examination in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(d) The film industry has opposed the directive. Some of the provisions are difficult to implement.

(e) The matter is under consideration in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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*The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Monday, the 25th July, 2005 was adjourned as a mark of respect to the memory of Dr. Biplab Dasgupta, a sitting Member. Answers to Questions put down in the lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, the 26th July, 2005.